

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 67, 74, 77-78, 87-89, and 92 have been amended. Claims 67-82, 86-89, and 92-98 are pending in the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 67-82, 86-89 and 98 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA (Forbes, US 6,377,084) in view of Nishimura et al. (US 5,013,942) and further in view of Doblar et al. (US 6,477,205). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 67 recites a signal transmission system comprising, *inter alia*, "a first transmission member ...; a second transmission member ...; a first and a second signal source respectively having first and second signal outputs respectively coupled to said first and second transmission members; ... and an impedance adjusting component coupled to said second transmission member." (emphasis added). Claim 87 recites similar limitations. Claim 88 recites a signal transmission system comprising, *inter alia*, "a first and a second signal source respectively having first and second signal outputs; a first transmission member ...; [and] a second transmission member ..., whereby a relationship may be established between respective transmission times ... of first and second signals received at said first and second transmission members from said respective first and second signal source outputs by changing said second impedance" (emphasis added).

APA teaches a differential amplifier receiving two "fully differential input signals." Col. 2, ln. 24; FIG. 2. The cited structure cannot function without two input signals. To the contrary, Nishimura et al. teaches only a first buffer 10 receiving a single input, and providing a signal to node 5A. In fact, Nishimura et al. could not receive multiple signal inputs without destroying the fundamental teaching of

Nishimura et al., which adjusts the multiple outputs from buffer 10, which has a single input.

The Office Action then attempts to cure APA's admitted deficiency in not teaching "an impedance adjusting component coupled to the second transmission member" by pulling a single feature, an impedance adjusting component, from the clock supply circuit of Nishimura et al. Office Action at 2. This feature of Nishimura et al. is not combinable with APA's fully differential input signals, as it inherently requires multiple input signals, which is against Nishimura's teachings. Accordingly, the references are inherently not combinable, as using the teachings of one reference in combination with the other would destroy the teachings of the other.

Nor would the addition of Doblar et al. be permissible on top of the inherently non-combinable APA and Nishimura et al. Since APA, Nishimura et al., and Doblar et al. are not combinable to reach the claimed invention, claims 67, 87, and 88 are not obvious over the cited references. Claims 68-82, 86, 89, and 98 depend, respectively, from claims 67 and 88, and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above, and on their own merits. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 67-82, 86-89, and 98 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 92-97 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura et al. in view of Doblar et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Nishimura et al. nor Doblar et al., even when considered in combination, teach or suggest all limitations of claim 92.

Claim 92, as amended, recites a method of synchronizing first and second operations of respective first and second circuits comprising, *inter alia*, "receiving a first signal transition at said first circuit from a first signal source through a first

transmission member, said first transmission member having a first signal propagation factor and a first geometric length...; [and] receiving a second signal transition at said second circuit from a second signal source through a second transmission member, said second transmission member having a second signal propagation factor and a second geometric length..., said second geometric length different from said first geometric length” (emphasis added). Nishimura et al. does not teach or suggest these limitations.

To the contrary, Nishimura et al. teaches only a first buffer 10 providing a signal to node 5A . Applicant respectfully submits that nishimura et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest receiving a first signal transition at a first circuit from a first signal source and receiving a second signal transition at a second circuit from a second signal source as recited in claim 92. Nor is Doblar et al. cited for these limitations. Thus, Doblar et al. does not remedy the deficiency of Nishimura et al.

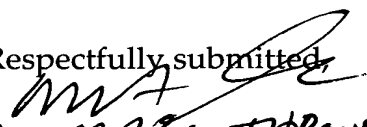
Moreover, M.P.E.P. §2143 delineates the three criteria for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness as: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The Office Action has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness under this M.P.E.P. provision. None of the cited references contain a suggestion or a motivation for their combination. None of the references sets forth a reasonable expectation of success in their combination. The Office Action does not identify where a suggestion to combine the references exists or why a reasonable expectation of success of combining the references exists. Rather, information contained in the current application is impermissibly used, in hindsight, to pick and choose features of the references to combine to arrive at the present invention.

Since Nishimura et al. and Doblar et al. do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 92, and are also not properly combinable, since motivation to do so is absent, claim 92 and dependent claims 93-97 are not obvious over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 92-97 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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